

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PORT M 00479 300517Z

14-12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-10

/076 W

----- 116385

R 300005Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 544

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CINCPAC

UNCLAS PORT MORESBY 0479

ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PDEV, PP

SUBJ: PROGRESS TOWARD INDEPENDENCE SLOWED

1. FOURTH DRAFT OF CONSTITUTION TABLED MAY 23, HAS ENCOUNTERED STRONG OPPOSITION. COALITION GOVERNMENT HOPED TO LIMIT DEBATE ON IT, BUT WAS VOTED DOWN ON FOUR LIMITING PROPOSALS. HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY WILL ADJOURN ABOUT JUNE 7 SO MEMBERS CAN CONSULT WITH CONSTITUENCIES AND THEN RETURN JUNE 23. CONSTITUTION AND ORGANIC LAWS ARE TO BE DEBATED AND (IF ALL GOES WELL) PASSED. AT THAT POINT DATE OF INDEPENDENCE IS TO BE ESTABLISHED. A MAJOR OBSTACLE, HOWEVER, IS APPARENTLY SERIOUS ILLNESS OF PRINCIPAL DRAFTSMAN OF BOTH CONSTITUTION AND ORGANIC LAWS.

2. TEMPERS HAVE FLARED DURING DEBATES AND SOMARE'S SENSE OF FRUSTRATION IS OBVIOUSLY MOUNTING. SOMARE SAID MAY 29 THAT SEPTEMBER INDEPENDENCE DATE WAS STILL POSSIBLE, BUT THIS ASSERTION WAS MET WITH SKEPTICISM.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, MEETING PROCEEDINGS
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Draft Date: 30 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
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From: PORT MORESBY
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Review Comment: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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